**Shortage of Equipments for Armed Forces**

1093. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently admitted shortage in vital equipments for soldiers during war, paucity of sophisticated equipments that could potentially win or loss a war and lack of modernisation;

(b) if so, whether Government have seriously taken any steps to strengthen its equipments availability etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) It has always been the policy of the Government to keep Armed Forces in a state of preparedness and to equip them with the latest weaponary and equipment to discharge their responsibility.

(b) and (c) Modernisation of Armed Forces is a continuous process necessitated by changing threat preceptions and advancements in technology. Continuous assessment is also made of our adverseries with a view to acquire matching modern equipments. The requirment of the Forces is constantly reviewed in Service Headquarters and regular planning—both short term and long term—is made for acquisition of weapons, ammunition and equipments.

**Import of R-73 Air-to-Air Missiles**

†1094. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries from which air-to-air missiles 'R-73' were imported alongwith the number of these missiles and the dates on which these were imported and the expenditure incurred thereon;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.